

Town of Camden
Regular Town Council Meeting
Camden Municipal Building
March 7, 2016

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor King called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and noticed that this regular Council Meeting was being held in compliance with the Delaware Open Public Meeting Act by posting the agenda on February 29, 2016, in the following manner:

- a. The electronic sign,
- b. The Official Bulletin Board, and
- c. The official Town of Camden Web Site.

Blake King led attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor King led a moment of silence.

Council Attending: Mayor King, Vice-Mayor Green, Councilman Dougherty, Councilman Casquarelli, and Councilwoman Torres.

Staff Attending: Chief William Bryson, Town Manager Aaron Chaffinch, Town Solicitor Craig Eliassen, Account Specialist Amanda Marlow, and Chief Financial Officer Tom Josiah.

AMENDMENTS

None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Town Hall will be closed Friday, March 25th in observance of Good Friday.

OATH OF OFFICE

The Honorable Robert B. Young swore in Justin T. King as Mayor to another two year term.

The Honorable Robert B. Young swore in Larry L. Dougherty, Sr., as Councilman to another three year term.

PRESENTATION

Paige Rubino from Horty and Horty presented the FY15 audit. She stated that assets exceeded the liabilities and there is two million dollars in unrestricted funds. She also stated there was a \$300,000.00 increase in revenue from last year.

Tom Josiah stated the biggest piece to this year's audit was the pension standards by GASB.

Mayor King stated the \$300,000.00 increase is a reflection of the Council and town staff. Mayor King asked if the tax discount that was given by council increased the cash flow?

Mrs. Rubino stated in the current year it was more beneficial to the Town because residents paid their property taxes faster.

Mr. Josiah stated he would analyze the discount in FY16 and determine if it was beneficial for the town to offer a discount in FY17.

Councilman Casquarelli asked if the 2.7 million dollars in liability was the mortgage on the building?

Mrs. Rubino said yes.

Councilman Green stated he had no additional questions and a clean audit is great.

Councilwoman Torres asked what the balance was regarding payments towards employees?

Mrs. Rubino stated it is accrued compensated absents if an employee were to leave as of 6/30/15.

Councilwoman Torres asked if this was the best way for the Town.

Mrs. Rubino explained it was based off the Towns policy.

Mr. Josiah stated it was good that the Town put a cap on compensated absents.

Mayor King asked if there was a recommendation to approve the FY15 audit as presented?

Mr. Josiah said he recommends council to approve the FY15 audit as presented. He also stated that the FY16 audit will be moved up closer to 6/30/16.

Mike Easton from Horthy and Horthy explained that their goal is to present at the January council meeting following the end of FY16.

Mayor King asked if there was a motion to approve the FY15 audit as presented?

Motion made by Vice-Mayor Green, seconded by Councilman Casquarelli, to approve the FY15 audit as presented. All in favor; none opposed.

REORGANIZATION FOR THE YEAR 2016:

Motion made by Councilwoman Torres, seconded by Councilman Dougherty, to approve the selection of Vice Mayor Green as Vice Mayor. All in favor; none opposed.

Motion made by Vice-Mayor Green, seconded by Councilman Dougherty, to approve the appointment of Jamie Fenske as Town Clerk. All in favor; none opposed.

Motion made by Vice-Mayor Green, seconded by Councilman Dougherty, to approve the appointment of Craig Eliassen as the Towns Solicitor. All in favor; none opposed.

Motion made by Vice-Mayor Green, seconded by Councilwoman Torres, to approve the selection of Delaware State News and News Journal as the official newspaper for notices of publication. All in favor; none opposed.

MINUTES

Motion made by Councilwoman Torres, seconded by Councilman Casquarelli, to approve the February 1, 2016 regular meeting minutes. All in favor; none opposed.

FINANCE REPORT

Amanda Marlow stated her and Tom Josiah are scheduled to meet on the 29th of March to start the budget for FY17. She also informed Council that the first reading will be at the May 2nd Council meeting, the public workshop is scheduled for May 9th at 6:30pm, and the second reading will be at the June 6th Council meeting.

POLICE REPORT

Chief Bryson's report included but was not limited to traffic arrests and criminal activity.

Chief Bryson stated there is an IRS scam going around and people are calling and stating they owe past due taxes and need to collect payment. Chief Bryson explained that the IRS will not call or take any money over the phone.

Chief Bryson also stated that an incident happened in town where someone called and stated that the police or Department of Correction had their grandchild in custody and demanded payment.

Councilwoman Torres said there is a speed limit sign by the school near the post office that has specific hours and our speed limit by the school in Camden does not.

Chief Bryson explained that ours use to have the hours but Del-Dot changed it when Bushweller introduced a new definition of walking or adjacent to sideways and kids do not do that at our school in Town. Del-Dot said they would have to take measurements of speeds and see if it's acceptable.

Councilwoman Torres asked if the parking ordinance from the distance to a stop sign is consistent with the 4179 DE Code and asked what the definition of a safety zone was?

Mayor King asked if it was a construction zone?

Councilwoman Torres people parked on corners in Newell's Creek are not 30 feet from the stop sign. Is there a way to enforce how close they are parking?

Chief Bryson stated without yellow curbs he does not believe it will hold up in court.

Mayor King explained they had similar problems in Tamarac.

Councilman Green explained the Church where the old Super Center use to be is a hazard Sunday mornings and asked if officers can go out and see if we have an issue?

Chief Bryson asked if they were parked on Caboose Road?

Councilman Green said no, but near it.

Mayor King explained when they came to the Planning Commission meeting he never understood why there were requirements in our land use code that curbs had to be put in the middle of the parking lot with trees because it takes away from the parking.

Chief Bryson asked if there was an overcapacity in the building issue?

Councilman Green stated he did not know.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Mr. Chaffinch stated that the paperwork went through with Del-Dot in regards to the paving and the curb ramps. He explained that he put a call into Del-Dots engineer and left a voicemail because we never received notice to proceed. When he came into work Monday morning he received an email stating to proceed. He said we are hoping to get the ramps in soon because the paving company would like that complete prior to paving.

Mr. Chaffinch said we received the RETT check in January in the amount of \$11,044.77.

Mr. Chaffinch stated he received a quote from Mr. Ridgely in regards to customizing the water tower. If the Town decided to have Town of Camden on one side of the water tower it would cost \$4,500.00 and if the Town wanted the historic seal on one side of the water tower it would cost \$15,000.00.

Mayor King asked what Mr. Chaffinch's opinion was on customizing the water tower.

Mr. Chaffinch explained that other water towers, outside of Town limits, has school names on them and maybe Nellie Stokes would be interested?

Councilwoman Torres asked the status of the snow parking signs?

Mr. Chaffinch stated we have the signs he is just waiting on Chief to approve locations.

Councilman Green explained that before we decide to paint or not paint the water tower he would like to make an announcement to the public and give them the option of having this done by having a public hearing at the next council meeting.

Mayor King said his recommendation would be to find out where Mr. Ridgely is getting the quote from.

Mr. Ridgely stated he will explain when he gives his presentation.

Councilman Dougherty stated that the company is a premier company and he doesn't think we will get a much lower quote but it would take some convincing to spend tax payer's money on this.

Councilman Casquarelli stated he doesn't think there should be any art work done to the water tower and the other two water towers in Camden-Wyoming do not have anything.

CAMDEN WYOMING FIRE DEPARTMENT

None.

CAMDEN WYOMING SEWER & WATER AUTHORITY

Mr. Dan Ridgeley reported that they had their first comp plan meeting last month and they were brainstorming ideas on three major topics; restoration, expansion, and funding opportunities.

Mr. Ridgeley invited the public to attend their meetings which are held on the third Tuesdays of every month at 7pm.

Mr. Ridgeley stated the tank is 80% complete and he would recommend having a discussion next month in regards to the painting of the water tower since completion is scheduled for May 2016. He also stated the quote came directly from the company and there was no middle man.

Mayor King thanked Mr. Ridgeley for attending the meeting and giving his presentation.

Craig Eliassen asked if the water tower would be done by the end of May 2016?

Mr. Ridgeley said as of February the water tower was 80% done and expected to be completed by May.

Mayor King asked when the completion date was that DNREC gave CWSWA.

Mr. Ridgeley said he does not remember the exact day but sometime in 2017.

Councilwoman Torres said a few months back there was a meeting with Senator Bushweller in regards to the brown water notice and she hasn't seen anything. She asked Mr. Ridgeley if he could email her and let her know after next month's meeting.

Councilman Green asked if there were any expectations in regards to the brown water?

Mr. Ridgeley said it is his understanding once the new water tower is up and running they will start a new flushing program.

FRIENDS OF HISTORIC CAMDEN

None

VFW

Commander Garduno reported that the Post is dedicated to helping others and discussed community services events they attended.

Mayor King said he loved the new sign and asked if the no smoking is helping?

Commander Garduno said no not at all.

Craig Eliassen said the Elks had a painful transition but came through.

Commander Garduno said they did a comparison from last year to this year and they are roughly \$1,500.00 in the hole. They are now proposing only opening up on Friday, Saturday, and Sundays.

MAYOR

Mayor King thanked the Council and administration for all their hard work. He said his goal is now to be proactive on the budget and put additional money towards the mortgage of the building.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

New Police Vehicle

Chief Bryson said the new police vehicle will be in any day now. He explained they are continuing to spend a lot of money on repairs for the older police vehicles. He said if we order a new vehicle now for next year's budget it would cost the town around \$50,000.00 which includes the lighting, marking, camera, and installation.

Mayor King asked if the Expedition can be used?

Chief Bryson said the brake lines are rotting, there is no four wheel drive and it's a 2006 with 60,000+ miles on it.

Mayor King can the lights and equipment be used?

Councilman Green said since the brake lines are fixed is it good now because 60,000 miles seems low

Chief Bryson said it has been 24 hours a day in the snow and we do not know how many hours it has been with idling.

Councilman Green said the new police salary and public works salary with benefits is roughly \$105,000.00.

Mr. Chaffinch reminded council that \$85,000.00 of the RETT funds are already accounted for with the paving project.

Councilman Dougherty explained that the RETT fund is doing well and we have been very lucky for the past year or two. He said with the hire of a new policeman and one lost vehicle it puts more pressure for another new vehicle now.

Councilman Green said as of March there is roughly \$500,000.00 in the RETT fund and he would rather not have money sitting there than a police car sitting.

Mayor King asked Chief Bryson what the exact amount of a new police vehicle was?

Chief Bryson said \$50,000.00.

Mayor King stated the recommendation from Tom Josiah and Amanda Marlow was wait until FY17 so we can add it to the budget. He stated he would leave it up to Council but he believes its money well spent and the funds are there.

Councilman Dougherty asked if the car that was already ordered has been paid for?

Amanda Marlow said no.

Councilman Dougherty explained that there was \$354,000.00 in the RETT fund after the last vehicle purchase and the street paving project. He asked if we would soon have to purchase new vest/body cameras?

Chief Bryson said the police council is working on something now but there are a lot of issues with storage and cost.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Torres, seconded by Vice-Mayor Green; to approve Chief Bryson to order a new police vehicle in a total amount of \$50,000.00. All in favor; none opposed.

Chief Bryson explained when the Lieutenants car is replaced it will only cost about \$18,000.00 because it's from used fleet and it doesn't have any markings.

Councilman Casquarelli asked if there was any management in vehicle usage as far as mileage and warranty?

Chief Bryson stated the Tahoe has a two year bumper to bumper and five year power train 150,000 miles. He said they work on moving the vehicles usage around and they are all pretty close.

Comcast Franchise

Mr. Chaffinch explained that the Comcast Franchise renewal is due in November, 2018 and the initial agreement was for 10 years. He explained he has had some complaints from residents that they can't get FIOS because of Comcast. Mr. Chaffinch stated that Comcast said it is not because of them it's because Verizon will not put towers here because they can go elsewhere and make more money.

Councilman Dougherty explained that Comcast was a non-inclusive agreement and anyone can still come in we just can't give them a lower dollar amount. He explained that he thinks Verizon expanded to fast and only wanted to go to upper incomes houses.

Mr. Chaffinch said with our current agreement with Comcast we have received a total of \$26,705.06 in FY16. He stated he originally thought Verizon couldn't come in because of Comcast, which we know now is not the case. He said that he believes a 10 year contract is too long.

Mayor King said if there are no restrictions, that's revenue coming in and does not see why we would not renew. He said he does agree that a 10 year contact is too long.

Craig Eliassen stated he doesn't believe Verizon received the attraction that they were hoping for with FIOS.

Chief Bryson said he thinks it's nice to have an option.

Councilman Dougherty stated he thinks the original contract had to be for 10 years to get the infrastructure into the Town but now we should be able to reduce the terms.

Mr. Chaffinch said he can contact Comcast and find out our options and either he can meet with them or have them attend a council meeting.

Mayor King said yes reach out to them and they can attend a meeting in the next month or two.

Trash contract extension

Mr. Chaffinch explained the original trash contact was for three years with an option to add two years. He said the trash contract is up as of June 30, 2016 and if we extend the contract it would take us to 2018 and from there we would have to re-bid. He stated the previous trash contract had an additional two year term which was an additional \$50 a ton which was roughly \$1650.00 a month increase. He said he spoke with Republic Services and came up with a .50 cent increase per customer the 1st year and a .50 cent increase per customer the 2nd year. He recommends a \$1.00 increase July 1st with no increase the 2nd year.

Councilman Dougherty said a right now our residents pay \$21.00/month for trash and as of July 1st they would pay \$22.00/month for the next two years and then we would re-bid?

Mr. Chaffinch said yes.

Councilman Green asked if we do bid in two years if Republic Services thinks it might go back to the 2013 bid amount?

Mr. Chaffinch said yes, maybe.

Councilman Green asked why there is an increase at all?

Mr. Chaffinch said he was not sure it was in the contract.

Craig Eliassen asked if the increase should be weaved into the budget?

Mr. Chaffinch said yes.

Councilman Green said it's a little late to re-negotiate and we are not able to gage fuel prices in 2018.

Councilwoman Torres asked if the new tax bill will increase?

Mr. Chaffinch said yes the trash will increase from \$252.00 to \$264.00.

Councilwoman Torres said communication is key so residents know it's not a tax increase that it's a trash increase.

Vice Mayor Green said he believes we are getting a good deal.

A motion was made by Councilman Dougherty, seconded by Councilman Casquarelli; to approve a \$1.00/month per resident trash increase started July 1, 2016 for the next two years. All in favor; none opposed.

Councilman Dougherty stated this does not affect Barclay Farms residents because they do not pay for their own trash.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Commander Garduno from the VFW said he attended several meetings in Bowers and they were negotiating with Comcast and they added free Wi-Fi for the building.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilwoman Torres said Congratulations to Mayor King and Councilman Dougherty on their new election term.

Councilman Green said Congratulations to Mayor King and Councilman Dougherty on their new election term.

Councilman Casquarelli said Congratulations to Mayor King and Councilman Dougherty on their new election term.

At 9:00 pm. a motion was made by Vice-Mayor Green, seconded by Councilman Casquarelli, to adjourn the regular meeting and go into executive session. All in favor; none opposed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- a. Strategy session to consider legal advice with respect to collective bargaining.
- b. To consider strategy with respect to pending and /or potential litigation and/or with respect to personnel issues.

At 10:45 pm. a motion was made by Councilman Dougherty, seconded by Councilman Casquarelli, to adjourn executive session and go back into the regular meeting. All in favor; none opposed.

ADJOURNMENT

At 10:46 pm. a motion was made by Councilman Casquarelli, seconded by Vice-Mayor Green, to adjourn the regular meeting. All in favor; none opposed.

*Respectfully submitted,
Amanda Marlow, Account Specialist*